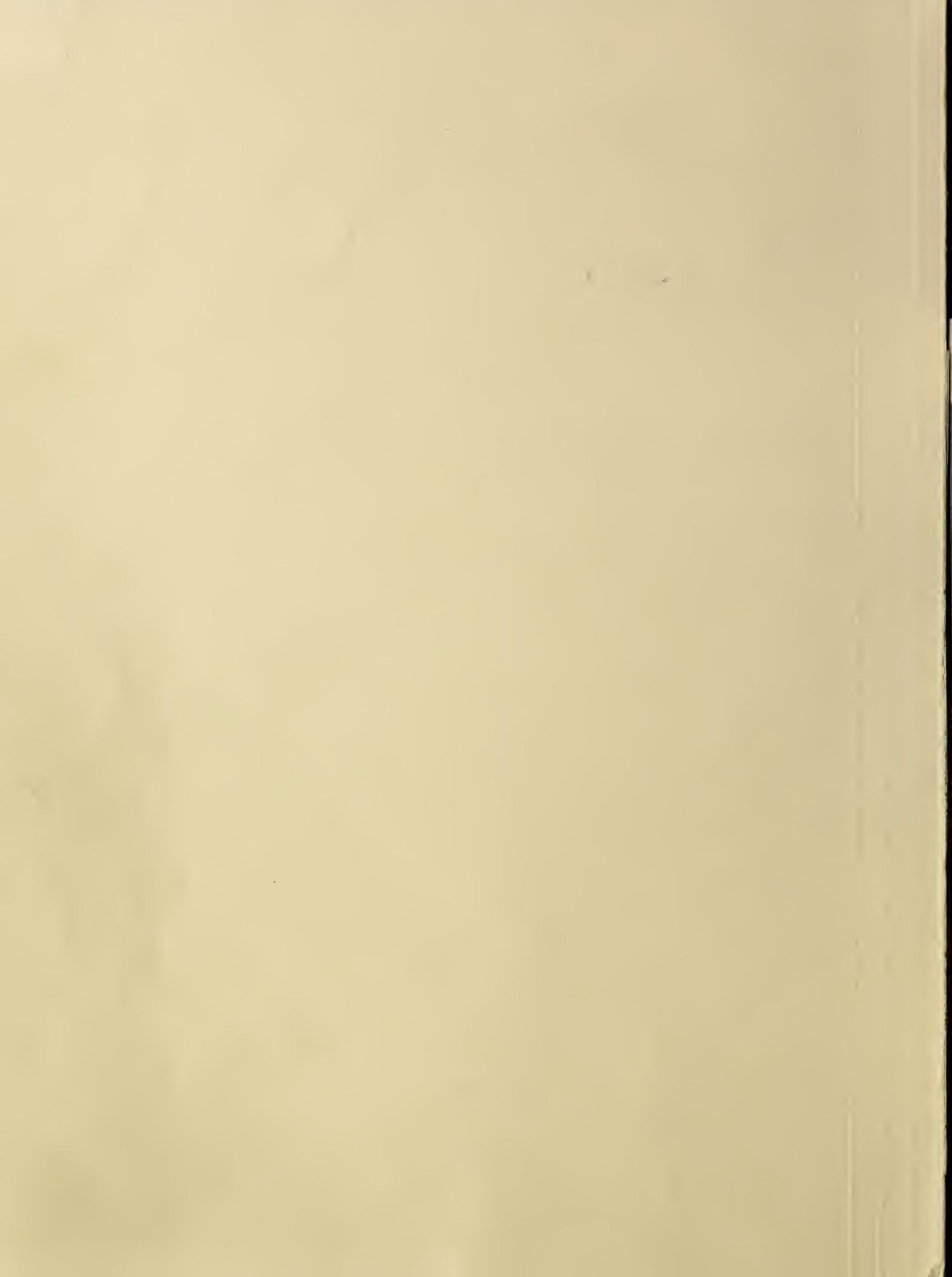


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# Extension Service REVIEW

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# To Live Confidently and Courageously

Problems of rural youth take an increasingly important place in the thinking of all extension workers. In talking these things over, it is a help to know what other folks are thinking and saying about the rural youth program. The following summary of recommendations adopted by a conference of Central States extension workers gives some of the ideas of this group of directors, specialists, supervisors, and agents after 2 days of discussion.

■ The United States is founded upon the principles of freedom of living, of speech, and of the press; of each citizen having a voice in determining who shall govern and how they shall govern; and of freedom of worship in accordance with one's own conscience. These are the fundamental principles of democracy which the people of this Nation will preserve at all costs.

A program designed to build men and women who live confidently and courageously is a prime essential to the preservation of that democracy. The extension rural youth program must give an understanding of and practice in democracy, a reverence for righteousness, and a proper recognition of the responsibilities of the individual if it is to teach farm youth to live confidently and courageously.

Youth is a period of adjustment. In addition to the normal adjustments peculiar to youth we now have those growing out of the present emergency. Adjustments are necessary to enable young men to devote a minimum of 1 year to military training. The gradual absorption of moderate numbers of trainees thereafter or perhaps the absorption of large numbers of discharged soldiers into our civilian life will mean more adjustment.

The best approach to the solution of these problems of grave public importance is actual practice in dealing with local problems of less overpowering significance which face rural youth and rural communities today and not in the unpredictable future. The best insurance that youth will be prepared to meet the problems of the future is for them to have a part in working out the problems of today. Youth may develop new ways of utilizing their own local resources; they may obtain practice in community cooperation which will demonstrate the power of unified effort; they may be given a voice in organizations and agencies through which education, health, and recreation may be brought to young people and increasingly by young people. They may study broad

national problems and international issues and, through confidence gained by the experience of coping successfully with local problems, be in a better position to struggle with the larger issues as they arise.

Statistics prove that farm families are lacking in adequate nutrition to insure their health and well-being. They are handicapped by lack of dental, medical, and hospital facilities. Farm youth can contribute to the solution of this problem by gaining an understanding and appreciation of the relationship of nutrition to physical and mental health. The rural-youth program can assist in developing a positive attitude toward health improvement programs, toward well-recognized health habits, the periodic health examinations, and adequate dental and eye care. Rural-youth clubs can study the community health problems and can cooperate with public health agencies and other services in their solutions.

Subject matter ought to be adapted to the needs of rural youth. Such fields as farm

and home planning, personal development, family relationships, community relationships, foods, nutrition and health, conservation of human and natural resources, farm financing, and government seem to offer possibilities.

There is need for vocational counseling. Development of a rural youth program will provide experiences which will assist young people to appreciate farm life and to develop their abilities and skills in agriculture and homemaking. Discussions, readings, tours, and personal contacts can add to the scope of these experiences. Active cooperation with other agencies in making available to rural youth established counseling and placement services should also be a part of the program.

More surveys and studies dealing with such subjects as personal and group interest, job opportunities, and facilities available need to be encouraged. The young folks themselves can often assist in making these studies. The reports should be written in a simple, understandable form and then used as a basis for planning activities.

A rural youth program is concerned with education, social development, economic growth, and community service. These aims can be attained by providing experiences that develop individual responsibilities and initiative by encouraging cooperation in group activities which contribute to individual, family, and community development. Youth can be helped to avoid fear and worry, to face changes and crises with poise and confidence. They can learn the value of mental health in meeting frustrations by doing their best day by day, with faith in what the future holds.



# EXTENSION SERVICE REVIEW

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EXTENSION SERVICE, U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D. C. • M. L. WILSON, Director • REUBEN BRIGHAM, Assistant Director

## Unity in Service

IS THE WATCHWORD OF THE RURAL-URBAN COUNCIL  
AS IT ACCEPTS ITS FULL SHARE OF AN ALL-OUT DEFENSE PROGRAM

ANNA H. HAYES, a Farm Woman of Twin Falls, Idaho

■ Recognizing the interdependence of rural and urban life, the home demonstration service, under the leadership of Marion Hepworth, has begun to organize rural-urban councils in Idaho. The purpose of such councils is to create a medium of exchange for ideas—a place where the problems of rural folk may be brought to the people of the towns, where the problems of the townfolk can be brought to the people in the country, and where problems common to the entire county or district may be discussed by men and women from both town and country, evolving thereby a program of study and activities in which all hold responsibility.

### Twenty-Seven Groups Take Part

The Twin Falls Rural-Urban Council is made up of representatives from 27 town and country organizations in Twin Falls County, including the home demonstration council, parent-teacher council, adult education council, ministerial alliance, Pomona Grange, American Legion and Auxiliary, Rural Federation of Women's Clubs, L. D. S. Relief Societies, Business and Professional Women, D. A. R., several unfederated women's clubs, the county superintendent of schools, the home demonstration agent, the county agricultural agent, and other interested individuals. The term of service in the council is determined for each member by the organization which he represents.

Among the important activities of the council this year was the citizenship induction

project conducted last autumn. Two hundred and forty-eight young voters were registered under the sponsorship of the council, and some 60 of them received certificates of citizenship signed by the Governor of Idaho. A county-wide patriotic celebration was held in the county seat a week before election day, with several member organizations of the council participating. The oath of citizenship and acceptance of certificates by young men and women who had reached voting age since the last election were features of this celebration.

The transient-camp problem was discussed at a meeting held at the Twin Falls County Camp. Members of the council were taken to the camp for a tour of inspection and an explanation of the procedures and objectives of the camp program.

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■ THE COVER this month shows a Florida farm family at the Duval County community canning center. Thousands of cans of all kinds of produce are put up in this center. Millions of cans are being filled in similar centers throughout the United States. A bumper peach crop is going into cans for home use, for school lunches, and for needy families in the community. As their contribution to defense, farm families are preserving all available supplies of fruits and vegetables under the leadership of extension agents.

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The parent-teacher association program for total defense and its adaptation to community life in Idaho formed a basis for discussion of county-wide responsibility of rural and urban groups to health, housing, recreation, and education under emergency conditions.

### Sponsor Nutrition Program

The council decided to sponsor the program of the nutrition defense committee in Idaho and to attack the problem of conservation of surplus farm products by canning and otherwise preserving such surplus for school lunches and relief to the needy, working in cooperation with parent-teacher associations on the school-lunch project. Other activities include sponsorship of certain activities in connection with the infantile paralysis campaign, investigation of prevalence and treatment for speech defects in school-age children in the county, promotion of the Future Farmers oratorical contest, and consideration of environmental needs adjacent to CCC camps.

The United Service Organization, sponsored by the rural-urban council, organized the county and completed its drive for funds before many counties were organized.

The rural-urban council contemplates accepting its share in the program of total defense by cooperating with other agencies already at work and by assisting with surveys to determine essential needs of the several communities and ways in which those needs may best be met. Unity in service is its watchword.

# Be It Ever So Humble

**MRS. BERNICE T. MOONEY, Assistant Supervisor of WPA Adult Education for Vermont**



Talking over plans for low-income farm families of Franklin County are Viola Chaffee, WPA home adviser, at the left, and Rhoda A. Hyde, home demonstration agent, at the right.

Hundreds of low-income rural families in Vermont have been helped toward a richer and fuller life by the educational work in home economics which has been done with underprivileged homemakers through the cooperation of the Vermont Agricultural Extension Service and the WPA. The work was started in 1934, and since then it is estimated that approximately 3,000 low-income homemakers in the State have been reached with instruction in many phases of home economics. The benefits of the work are found in the improvements which these homemakers have made in the living and happiness of their families.

The work is sponsored by the Vermont Agricultural Extension Service and carried on under the immediate direction of the writer and 13 WPA home advisers. Close relationships are maintained with the State and county offices of the Extension Service. My office is in the State Extension building, and each of the county workers' offices is at the county farm bureau headquarters. We have found this very helpful in planning our programs and developing material for use in carrying out the program. Most of the subject matter taught comes from the extension specialists.

Originally our work was confined to strictly relief families, but we soon found many other families with a low income that needed our help very badly. Now we work with relief and border-line families.

Teaching is done both by home visits and in organized groups. Many of the families are so scattered that it is impossible to get them

together in a group; but we know they need our help, so we try to give them in a home visit the same material given in the group meetings. The classes are organized informally, and all are welcome to attend. They usually meet in the daytime once a month.

The matters discussed vary greatly and depend upon the needs and interests of the persons enrolled. Many times women are found in the neighborhood, often members of home demonstration groups, who are willing to help. Their assistance has been of great value both to us and to the low-income families. It is essential to build up the confidence of the low-income woman in the program and in the personnel administering it.

Activities such as demonstrations, discussions, excursions, planning, and making things for the home and family workshops provide an excellent opportunity to reach the desired goal.

Demonstrations should always include discussion of the specific skill demonstrated and also the effect of the skill on family living. Many and varied demonstrations can be given on the preparation of low-cost, properly balanced meals and the use of surplus commodities. These open a way to teach the women, and oftentimes the men, the value of various foods and their relation to health.

Shampooing the hair, arrangement of homes so that each member of the family can carry on his activities comfortably and efficiently, and various phases of sewing all present very useful ideas for demonstrations.

Discussions are always of interest to the women as also are excursions or trips to near-

. . . There is plenty of opportunity to work with low-income rural homemakers to strengthen the home and improve family life, says Mrs. Bernice T. Mooney, assistant supervisor of WPA adult education for Vermont. One of the States to have worked out a successful tie-up between the Extension Service and WPA, Vermont reports constructive educational work with the low-income families.

by markets to learn of the best buys, or to a community industry closely related to family living, such as a flour mill or bakery. A visit to the local library is often worth while to encourage the women to learn how to use its facilities. It is hard for many of us to realize how much a trip of this sort means to many of the low-income families as they have no magazines, not even a weekly paper.

Planning family budgets, such as food and clothing, is very helpful, but a little hard to do because many of the family incomes are so uncertain. The families can usually plan for a garden which will provide, to a great extent, the food which the family needs and likes.

The work ties in closely with the health of the family. The encouragement given to gardening and canning has had important results. More people are canning "on their own" each year, and the women report that the health of their families has improved as a result of having vegetables during the cold winter months.

Ways of making the home attractive and planning Christmas celebrations are always most interesting to all. We have found that many of the homes lack even the bare necessities. It has been gratifying to teach women how to make chairs out of scrap lumber, cupboards and shelves out of orange crates, curtains from bags, and rugs and quilts from scrap pieces, and to see the change in their attitude toward life.

Other things which the women have been taught to make are recipe books, books on child care, play material suitable for children of different ages, children's furniture, and games for family use.

The recipe books usually are cumulative. A page or two at a time can be added as new recipes are learned. Sometimes this work has to be combined with learning to read and write, but in a short time women usually are able to write understandingly. These activities are combined with discussions on teaching children to eat different foods, and serving nutritious dishes in an attractive manner.

# The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project

R. M. TURNER, Assistant Director of Extension, Washington

The West has always been "America's Land of Golden Opportunity." On foot, by canoe, by wagon, by train, by auto, and by airplane, Americans have answered the admonition, "Go West." The West has meant fertile soil and opportunity to get a start in life.

Now a new attraction is looming in the West—the Columbia Basin irrigation project in the State of Washington, where 1,200,000 acres of arid and semiarid land await only water from the Grand Coulee Dam to make them capable of supporting farm families.

This time, however, much sober thought is being given to the movement of prospective settlers. Warnings are being sounded—warnings intended not only to protect the prospective settler but to insure a stable, sound basis for the agriculture of the vast Columbia Basin project.

Preparations are progressing to make new homes for about 30,000 farm families in 3 Columbia Basin counties of Washington. These homes, however, will not spring up overnight. The first irrigation water is not expected to be available on the Columbia Basin project until 1944, and at least 25 years will pass before the project is in full operation. There is no justification at this time for a westward stream of migrants to the project. There will be plenty of time to locate land for farms after preliminary surveys are completed and construction of irrigation canals is started.

County extension agents can be of real service to prospective settlers in the Columbia Basin by explaining that the irrigation phase of the project is as yet undeveloped, even though the Grand Coulee Dam is nearing completion. Construction work on the irrigation reservoirs, canals, and pumps to put water on the land has not even been started. At this time the three irrigation districts in the area have not signed contracts with the Government for repayment of the cost of the irrigation works. This must be done before construction can begin.

There are a number of factors about the project which need to be widely known and discussed with prospective settlers. These include ownership of the land, the antispeculation law, land values and classification, and surveys and studies that are now under way.

## Who Owns the Land Now?

Ninety percent of the 1,200,000 irrigable acres is owned by individuals and corporations. Counties, the State of Washington, and the Federal Government own the remaining 10 percent. Prospective settlers must

now buy their land from private owners. However, an agency may be set up by the Government to acquire lands for resale to settlers as development progresses. At the present time, the small amount of Government land on the project is not open to homestead entry.

## The Antispeculation Law

The antispeculation law, passed by Congress on May 27, 1937, and ratified by the Washington Legislature, is designed to protect settlers from speculative land prices and to provide opportunities for more farm homes by limiting farm ownership to specified maximum-sized areas. The law, however, is not yet in effect, nor will its provisions apply until contracts between the Government and the directors of the three irrigation districts in the project area have been signed and confirmed. This will be several, perhaps many, months from now. In the meantime, the law offers no protection to prospective settlers from land speculators. Full land classification and Government appraisal information, however, is available and can be obtained for any tract in the project by prospective buyers of Columbia Basin land. Farmers who may become interested in buying project land can protect themselves from speculators by writing to the Bureau of Reclamation at Coulee Dam, Wash., for this information.

The present antispeculation law limits to 40 acres the amount of irrigable land for which a single person may receive water; a married couple may receive water for 80 acres. An amendment to the law, now being considered, would adjust the size of farms to the productive capacity of the land. Larger farms would be permitted on the less-productive land. If a present landowner wishes to receive water for any of his holding, he must sell or release for sale all his irrigable land in excess of the maximum established. Moreover, the selling price may not be more than the Government-appraised dry-land value.

The Bureau of Reclamation has nearly completed an extensive and detailed classification of the project lands to determine, first, the arable and nonarable lands, and second, the relative suitability of the several classes of arable land to irrigation farming. The land is also being appraised in accordance with its value as dry land, without reference to prospective irrigation. Construction charges for irrigation works must be paid for each acre of land to which water is delivered. Any value added by irrigation or prospect of irrigation properly belongs, therefore, to the person who develops the land and takes the responsibility

for payment of the construction charges. Appraised values range from less than \$5 per acre for raw desert land to more than \$30 per acre for some of the better land now suited to and used for dry farming. Construction charges, it is estimated, will average about \$85 per acre. The charge will likely be adjusted to the economic productivity of the different classes of land and may be higher for the better class and lower for the poorer classes of irrigable land. Payment will be made in annual installments over a period of 40 years, without interest. Moreover, payment of the first installment may be deferred until several years after water is first delivered. Annual charges for operation and maintenance of the irrigation system which, it is estimated, will be about \$2.60 an acre, must be paid from the first. Construction charges will be over and above operation and maintenance charges. The two together will probably be about \$5 per acre per year.

## Many Studies and Surveys Are Under Way

By the time water is provided for the first block of land to be irrigated, 3 or 4 years from now, a great volume of vital information on the proper use of project lands will be available for settlers. This information is now being compiled by participants in the Columbia Basin joint investigations.

These investigations are extended. They include studies in land clearing and grading, irrigating methods, adaptability of crops and livestock, farmstead arrangements, low-cost farm buildings, capital requirements and management, possible markets for products, and many other matters bearing on farm development and operation. Also included are studies of community problems such as highways, electrical services, domestic water supplies, town locations, and educational and recreational facilities.

Settlers on the Columbia Basin project will have the advantage of experience gained on older irrigation sections. A great deal of attention will be given to the development of satisfactory community services to facilitate the establishment of successful family-sized farms and farm homes.

As the information from these surveys and studies becomes available, bulletins will be made available for extension agents and others interested. Such information will be available without cost, except for such maps as the applicant may wish to obtain. This information may be procured, as the records are completed, from the office of the Bureau of Reclamation at Coulee Dam, Wash.

# More Than 100,000 Tennessee Families Enroll To Grow Their Own Food

ALMON J. SIMS, Extension Editor

■ By proclamation of Gov. Prentice Cooper, Tennessee observed the week of April 27 to May 3 as Home Food Supply and Better Nutrition Week.

The week climaxed an intensive educational campaign which had been under way since January under the leadership of county farm and home agents to acquaint the general public with the importance of the production of home food supplies and with foods that provide a healthful, well-balanced diet. Farm, civic, and educational organizations and agencies; newspapers and radio stations; and chain and independent food stores cooperated to make the event one of the most successful ever conducted under the leadership of the Extension Service.

Several hundred county and community home food supply and better nutrition rallies, food demonstrations, and tours were conducted by farm and home agents. Food demonstrations and visits to outstanding farm gardens and stores having special displays of food products were special features of the rallies and tours.

In 1940, 61,693 farm families enrolled in a State-wide home food supply program. The objective of this program, which is being continued this year, is to encourage the home production of at least 75 percent of the food supplies needed by the family for a healthful, well-balanced diet. The enrollment in the 1941 program is 106,046.

The Tennessee home food supply program is an outgrowth of a campaign "for balanced prosperity in the South," which was developed at a conference of Southern Governors in Nashville, Tenn., in January 1940.

Hon. Prentice Cooper, Governor of Tennessee, gave enthusiastic endorsement to the program; and, as chairman for Tennessee, C. C. Flanery, State commissioner of agriculture, endorsed it on behalf of organizations of citizens and public agencies.

Following this conference, Governor Cooper called a conference of representatives of the public agencies in Tennessee interested in agricultural welfare, farm organizations, and other groups interested in rural life to discuss a program for the State. A State home food supply committee composed of representatives of cooperating agencies was named.

Following that conference, county committees were set up to direct the program in cooperation with the State committee. County committees are composed of the following: The county agricultural agent, president of the county farm bureau, a representative of the grange, a vocational teacher in agri-



Gov. Prentice Cooper of Tennessee by a stroke of the pen proclaimed April 27-May 3, Home Food Supply-Nutrition Week. Standing by are (left) Director C. E. Brehm, and (right) C. C. Flanery, State Commissioner of Agriculture.

culture, a vocational teacher in home economics, chairman of the county home demonstration council, county and home Farm Security supervisors, chairman of the county planning committee, the county key banker, and the editors of local newspapers.

The Tennessee Agricultural Extension Service, through its county farm and home agents, provides each family enrolled with bulletins, publications, and timely suggestions on food production and preservation problems—gardening; dairying; poultry raising; livestock production and management; and canning, preserving, and storing of food products.

Each family enrolled is supplied a simple score card for keeping a record of food produced. This score card gives suggestions for a good diet and shows the amount of various foods needed for one person for a well-balanced diet for 1 year. By multiplying the amount of food needed for one person by the number of persons in the family the amount of food needed to be produced on the farm during the year to meet the requirements of a healthful, well-balanced diet for the family is determined. This amount is entered on the score card. At the end of the season the amount of the various products actually produced and consumed by the family, or to be used by the family, is entered on the score card.

The score cards are turned in to the county farm and home agents in November to be judged and scored by a judging committee. This committee is appointed by the

home food supply committee in each county.

All foods listed on the score card are weighted according to their importance in the diet. The total possible score is 1,000 points. Judging is on the basis of the farm family producing on the farm 75 percent or more (a score of 750 points or more) of all foods consumed by the family during the entire year, including the variety of vegetables, fruits, poultry, and livestock products necessary for a healthful, well-balanced diet, as well as the quality of foods produced, stored, and preserved.

All farm families producing on their farms 75 percent or more of the foods consumed, in accordance with recommendations of the Extension Service as to what constitutes an adequate, well-balanced diet, are issued a handsome framed certificate of merit signed by Governor Cooper, the State commissioner of agriculture, the State director of the Extension Service, and the State supervisor of vocational agriculture. In many counties harvest dinners are given at which the certificates are awarded to the winner. In 1940 Governor Cooper attended a number of these dinners and presented the certificates to the winners personally. These certificates can be seen hanging on the walls in many Tennessee homes, and the recipients take considerable pride in them.

Families making the highest score in each county were given a dinner by the Governor and awarded a distinguished merit plaque.

# Democracy and the Dinner Pail

GRACE B. ARMSTRONG, Extension Nutritionist, Illinois

■ As mathematically certain as that one and one make two is the fact that the nutritional condition of an undernourished child fed an adequate lunch daily is markedly improved.

Illinois is conducting the school-lunch project in devious ways. Home demonstration agents are using surveys conducted by home bureau members in cooperation with health supervisors to discover the needs. From this practical view of the county situation, they are presenting major and minor project training lessons through local leaders and following up with newspaper and radio publicity. County food-for-defense committees and parent-teacher groups are actively cooperating.

Of 27 home demonstration agents reporting recently on programs for the school year 1940-41, 18 indicated that 549 schools provided adequate lunches for 17,237 pupils. Cooperating with 424 of these schools by furnishing surplus commodities was the Surplus Marketing Administration. According to SMA reports, 145,189 children in 2,520 schools in Illinois were receiving lunches made from surplus foods.

Lillian Merritt, home demonstration agent in Ford County, issued two circular letters "to home bureau membership pointing out the opportunity to use surplus commodities as the basis for adequate school lunches. The executive board for the home bureau cooperated in presenting information at unit meetings and at other special group meetings over the county."

As a result, Ford County has 49 schools in which a supplementary lunch is being served to 461 children. Surplus commodities are being used in 6 of the schools with WPA and NYA workers preparing the lunches in a few places. Work next year will be sponsored by the Ford County food-for-defense committee and by homemakers cooperating with the Extension Service.

Last year 9,303 cans of fruits and vegetables, prepared by WPA workers in Moultrie County, reached 220 children in 10 schools. The workers were trained in canning methods by Miss Frances Cook, extension specialist in foods. Dorothy Footitt, county home demonstration agent, prepared mimeographed outlines and other materials for 5 lessons on foods and nutrition used at training schools by the WPA "hot-lunch cooks."

Livingston County has been carrying out a very intensive piece of work started 2 years ago. As much emphasis has been placed recently on undernourished families of poor farming counties, it is well to point out that

Livingston County is considered to be one of the best farming areas of Illinois. From the standpoint of income return and amount of equipment used by Livingston County farmers, it is hard to reconcile the fact reported by the county nurse that approximately 70 percent of Livingston County children showed some signs of malnutrition.

In the fall of 1939, home bureau members under the direction of Jessie Campbell, home demonstration agent, conducted a home-visiting campaign with the promotion of a hot school-lunch program as their objective. Survey results revealed a real need for action. The first step was a training school conducted by the extension specialist in nutrition, at which 40 women were trained as demonstrators and leaders. This was followed by 2 more training schools for demonstration teams. These leaders presented 41 demonstrations to more than 1,000 mothers of children in rural schools through Livingston County. Figuring that 2 meetings are equal to 1 day's work, these women donated 120 days, or 4 months of teaching time, to the school-lunch program. Information was presented on the packed lunch as brought from home; the planning, prepara-

ting, and serving of a supplementary dish; and a complete lunch.

In 1941, more than 2,000 Livingston County children attending 95 schools received planned school lunches supplemented by surplus commodities. Seventy-five percent of the schools in the county have been reached.

Change from the "two sandwiches and a candy bar" lunch was revealed in a follow-up survey made through the teachers at the close of the 1941 school session. Teachers were asked to score the lunches not only as an indication of progress made but to determine where more work was needed. In the majority of the schools, teachers reported 90 percent as the rating for lunches, although in a few schools it was only 75 percent.

Peoria's plan is explained by the home demonstration agent, Mrs. Ruth Scofield.

"We plan to introduce the subject of school lunches in our home bureau program in September. Our plans now are that we will make a survey of the county to learn what has been done in the past.

"Following the survey, we hope to create interest among parents in school communities and thereby increase the number of schools having some type of hot dish added to the lunch."

A county committee will carry the work in Shelby County. Rock Island County already has a committee functioning on what is considered the major community project for both town and country areas. Will County will make a county-wide school-lunch study in September in cooperation with the school nurse.

Collecting the quota of surplus commodity foods for her school is Mrs. Mae Shafer, teacher at Eppards Point Center, Livingston County, Ill. Her school is one of the 95 in the county to serve adequate lunches to more than 2,000 children.



# Kansans Train for Extension Careers

LEONARD F. NEFF, District Supervisor, Kansas

Kansas county agents begin their extension careers as assistant county agents. This has been true for both men and women for several years. From this basic plan of sending beginners into the counties to learn by working as assistants with experienced agents, a system of training has been evolved that now starts with undergraduate study of extension methods, continues with supervised training as assistant agents, and encourages further professional improvement by providing sabbatical leave for graduate study.

Specific undergraduate preparation for a career in the Extension Service is being offered for the first time in the coming school year at Kansas State College. A course in extension methods will be taught by members of the extension staff. This course will provide a background of the principles of extension work.

Approved graduates are employed as assistant county agents for a period of 6 months. They spend 2 months in each of the three extension districts to gain experience in all parts of Kansas and to allow an opportunity for all district agents to become acquainted with the trainees.

Although the assistant agent is under the direct supervision of the county agent with whom he (or she) is placed and will assist that agent as directed, it is understood that the primary purpose of placing the assistant agent in the county is to train the assistant and not to provide someone to do miscellaneous errands for the county agent. Trainees have responded favorably to this plan. As one home demonstration agent in training said: "Each agent I worked with, I found, had different ideas and methods of carrying on her work. By working with several, I was able to evaluate all methods and from that to determine which I wanted to pattern after." This same assistant indicated that she got some inspiration for originality. She said, "I found several I thought I could improve upon."

A young county agent who completed his training about a year ago reported: "I feel that my training received from county agents while an assistant agent gave me some understanding of the office procedure, the files, and where one may obtain material and information as constantly needed. Experience in assisting with demonstrations, tours, and reports all have been found to be extremely valuable in my work as county agent. I particularly learned a great deal from county agents who answered questions for me which arose during my training period."

To direct the study and observation, the assistant and the county agent receive a "train-

ing guide" for each month. The training guide consists of an "observation outline" and a "question outline." Sending the outlines to the county agents as well as to the trainees places the agent in the best position to aid the beginner. In fact, many of the older agents have benefited personally from the outlines and, having recognized the value of the training, have entered into the work of helping the assistants in splendid spirit.

Each observation outline covers a phase of extension work, including extension organization and philosophy, extension methods, planning and program making, office ethics and relationships, practice in methods and procedure, and office organization. Reference reading and subjects for discussion with the county agent are suggested in the outlines which also give information and explanations that are not available elsewhere.

A question outline accompanies each observation outline. Assistants are required to send replies to the question outline to the district agents in charge of their training each month. This system provides a means of supervising the assistants' training and of appraising their capabilities.

## *Training Follows Experience*

After at least 2 months' field experience, all trainees, both men and women, are called into the central office for 1 week of intensive training. That this plan of requiring some field experience before giving intensive training is practical is evidenced by the following comment of a trainee: "The week spent in Manhattan was quite helpful as it came after I had been an agent 2 months; and, although I knew very little at the time, I had enough knowledge on the subject to ask questions."

The entire group of men and women trainees meet together from 9 o'clock to 12 and from 1 o'clock to 4 each day. Fifty-minute periods with 10-minute rest intervals have been found satisfactory. The discussion method is used as much as possible. The subjects taught in this course include: Extension organization, by A. F. Turner, district agent; office management, by Clara M. Siem, financial secretary; 4-H organization, by M. H. Coe, State club leader, and members of the 4-H Club department; preparing monthly and annual reports, by Eugene D. Warner, in charge of reports; publicity methods, by L. L. Longsdorf and J. W. Scheel, extension editors; home economics organization, by Georgiana H. Smurthwaite, State home demonstration leader, and district agents; and discussion methods by Dr. George Gemmell, in charge of home study service.

Although such intensive training may read more like an intensive grind, trainees who have been in the field long enough to be thoroughly bewildered by the complexities of a county agent's job really appreciate training. One of the men assistants had this to say after finishing the training: "The 1 week of intensive training was probably of the greatest value in that it acquainted me with the wide field extension work covers and gave a basic understanding of how to handle the work." Assistant home demonstration agents also value this training. One of them made this report: "I had been in two counties a short time with experienced home demonstration agents who had given me an idea of the opportunities and responsibilities of an agent. The agents were very capable and helpful, and I gained a great deal from them; but I think I did not really begin to develop the attitude and characteristics of an agent until after I attended the training meeting."

After completing the 6 months' training course, men assistant agents may be placed in the counties as county agricultural agents or 4-H Club agents. However, it is the policy of the Service whenever possible to place the trained men assistants for at least 1 year in the position of assistant agents either in dairy farm record associations or as assistant agents in counties requiring an additional agent because of the organization of a soil conservation district or association before placing them in the counties as county agents.

If there are no vacancies in the dairy farm record associations or soil conservation districts, trained assistant agents having the highest ratings may be retained for an additional 6 months as assistant agents at large. During this period they may be stationed wherever their assistance is needed.

Assistant home demonstration agents may be placed in a county as home demonstration agent after completing the 6-month training course; or, in the event there are no vacancies, those having the highest rating may be retained until a vacancy occurs, but not to exceed an additional 6 months.

Having reached the goal of being placed in a county as an extension agent does not mean the end of the agent's opportunity for further study and advancement. A number of agents enroll in home study courses in extension problems. Credit is given toward advanced degrees for this study. Then, after serving continuously for 6 years or more, Kansas extension workers, as members of the college faculty, are entitled to sabbatical leave of 1 year for the purpose of pursuing advanced study. Many avail themselves of this opportunity for professional improvement.



A modern library, reading headquarters for the county, sends books to rural readers of Appomattox County, Va.

## The Books Come to the Reader

**VIOLET D. RAMSEY, Formerly Librarian, Appomattox County, Va.**

■ "Better reading for 1941" is the federation goal for the 15 home demonstration clubs in Appomattox County, Va. An anonymous gift of a \$6,000 collection of books for adults and a \$16,000 modern and commodious county library building, open to the public since April 1940, has made good library service possible in this county.

This building is the central depository for all the books in the county. It is located on the high-school grounds and is complete with a main reading room for adults, a children's room, a Negro reading room, the librarian's office, and a receiving room in the basement where all the books in the county are brought for repair and mending.

The librarian orders all the library books for the children in the county public schools and for the adults. It is here that they are opened, accessioned, cataloged, and processed for circulation. At the present time, WPA and NYA clerks assist in this work under the direction of the county public school librarian.

Someone has said, "A librarian who will not go to the people cannot expect the people to come to him." The Appomattox County Public School Library has accepted this challenge; and, with the aid of the county home demonstration agent, George Ella Smith, books are being carried to the rural people of the county. One cannot expect a farmer who has to drive 20 miles to borrow a book on hydraulic rams, which he needs in farm engineering, to be an enthusiastic library patron. Neither can one expect the tired housewife to drive to the county seat to borrow a book, written in a light vein, to reduce her worries of homemaking and rearing children. But,

if on the other hand, there are loan stations conveniently located in their community, there will be much free interborrowing and reading of books among these rural people.

In the summer of 1939, the county public school librarian and the county demonstration agent visited the 15 home demonstration clubs in the county and opened a book loan station in the home of a club member in each of these communities. The librarian attended each club meeting and gave reviews of novels and explained the plan of library service to the rural women. Because of the limited number of adult books available at the beginning, only about 15 or 20 books were left with each club; but now the number of books lent to each of these clubs varies from 30 to 75 per month. The women are enthusiastic about the opportunity to receive books in their communities. Each club elects a library chairman who keeps the books in her home and checks them out to borrowers from her home just as it is done in the library. At each monthly meeting the women report on the number of books read, and the club librarian keeps a record of the reading done by each individual. The first summer's reading project was such a success with these women who lived some distance from the county seat and who had never had an opportunity to visit the library that all 15 clubs voted to continue this project throughout the winter months.

At the homemaking advisory board meeting in the fall, the following library goals were established for the year 1939-40: (1) Every member read five books during the year; (2) each club contribute \$1 to the book fund of the library; (3) a review of one book to be

given at the monthly meeting of each club; (4) an individual reading record of the members of each club to be kept by the library chairman.

The first goal mentioned may seem small, but the advisory board felt that it would be wiser to require a small number of books to be read and have every member attain this goal rather than to set as a minimum a large number of books. The greatest number reported read by one number was 20 books in 1 month; and other members reported 8, 5, or fewer. During the first summer of reading, 925 books were reported as having been read. The following year, 1939-40, 2,133 books were read. Since December 1940, 326 books have been reported read by the library chairmen, thus making a total of 3,384 books read by the rural women of Appomattox County in 1 year. Excluding this circulation, the Appomattox County Public School Library now has an average circulation of approximately 10,000 books per month for the entire county.

Miss Smith, the county home demonstration agent, visits the Appomattox County Public School Library sometimes daily and on the average of two or three times weekly and carries a box of books to each club meeting once a month and in turn brings back the books that the club has had the previous month. Sometimes popular books, on request of the club members, remain in a community for several months until all the people have had a chance to read them.

Books are being taken into sections of the county where adults have never had books to read. Some of the groups are more enthusiastic than others. Miss Smith relates a story of a nonreading woman who said: "Miss Smith, what do you have against me by keeping on bringing all of those books down here for me to read." Miss Smith now reports that this same woman read two books during the month of January and that she was quite proud of her reading record. It was noted that this same woman was the first to reach for a book from the box in February.

Most of the women are so enthusiastic about reading that they can scarcely wait to get through their business meetings and demonstrations before going to the box of books. They are reading a wide selection, including books on home furnishings, food, etiquette, fiction, travel, child care, clothing, personality development, and biography. This reading has become contagious, and now the husbands are sending requests for books. However, one husband complained to Miss Smith of being neglected at home in the evenings because his wife keeps her nose in a book.

The librarian receives requests for titles which the different club women desire to have in their communities. Some, not knowing the titles, recognize certain types of books by their physical format and color. One lady says that the shiny green books with silver stripes on their backs are always the best ones. In compiling a book order, the li-

brarian considers the requests from these people and from the county agent.

All people in the communities—not just club members—have free use of the books. Some new members have been reached or brought into the clubs through this reading program. Book reviews are given on one or more books at all the meetings, and the members take part in the discussion of the books they have read.

The rural women leaders, realizing how much their lives were being enriched through such a reading project, have made "Better

Reading for 1941" their federation goal for the year. The minimum reading goal for each individual member has been increased from 5 to 12 books this year. In an effort to increase reading habits in the different communities, each club member has resolved to pass on one book a month to someone who is not a club member.

This reading project has interwoven library service with all activities in the county. The librarian attends the meetings of the homemaking advisory board, and this board has held its meetings in the county library.

This point gives value to more books, magazines, and reading materials in the rural home, or made available from libraries or a county "bookmobile." Reading, enjoyment of nature, and cultural arts are aids in building up inner reserves which will need new emphasis at this time.

Family and community drama, orchestras, sports, and games in which all participate are suggestive. "A game for everyone and everyone in a game" is a good slogan for the present era. The emphasis on spectator sports and passive entertainment should give way to activity and participation on the part of all.

Greatly increased taxes for defense needs are in the offing. Post-war deflation is a probability which all must face, although serious attempts are being made to control it and to lessen its effect. With greatly lessened income for the great middle class, real family cooperation will be required in budgeting and sharing all family resources in the fairest possible manner.

There may be a repetition of the World War I strain in family relationships when more than one family or generation has to occupy the same farm and the same home because of financial pressure. In the case of father-son partnerships, arrangements for separate housekeeping and living of the two families help to safeguard the relationships. Satisfactory business arrangements are another need in which extension workers may render service.

Small children who are upset by war news, older youth who become fearful or cynical of what the future holds for them, and the skepticism which now exists in some degree about the value of the democratic way of life are other examples of war tension which must be met.

The continuing functions of the family in this emergency are to safeguard the physiological needs, physical comfort, nutrition, growth, and health of the individual members. The family can give that feeling of security which comes from being loved and valued for one's worth. In guiding life experiences, even in an emergency, so that social growth takes place, the family contributes to the Nation's strength.

All home economics extension groups, regardless of the major emphasis of their program in Iowa, will use a "quiz" on "emergency adjustments in a time of crisis" in their 1941-42 program. These questions will be used as a means of assisting families to make emergency adjustments in a rapidly changing and, for some, perilous world.

These questions will be used in community meetings of men and women, as well as in study groups, to open up discussion and to stimulate thought.

With due attention to conserving human and spiritual resources, as well as material resources, the family may continue to play a fundamental part in strengthening inner defenses and building toward a permanent peace.

## Emergency Family Adjustments

**MRS. ALMA H. JONES, Extension Specialist, Child Development and Family Relationships, Iowa**

■ The President has declared an unlimited national emergency. The stupendous task of building a two-ocean navy is now under way. All material resources are being mobilized to meet the needs for a speedy delivery of armaments and the training of manpower for the national emergency.

What is the meaning of this emergency as far as individual homes and family life are concerned? How may the family "lift itself by its own bootstraps" and perform its ancient and honorable function of conserving human welfare and developing the morale of citizens which constitute our "inner" line of defense? How may emergency adjustments be made in the family to add to national strength?

Young men are being drawn away from home into defense training and into defense industries in cities. In Iowa this group constitutes about one in four adult males. Also, young women from farms are taking their places in defense industries or in the city employment now made possible.

As practically all farm laborers are in the same age group, there is, at present, an acute labor shortage. Other family members, parents and children, are having to assume extra duties to make up for this short-handedness. In addition, farm people are trying to produce more adequate food for home use and for defense needs. This extra strain calls for special attention to nutrition and health needs, as well as for adequate medical care for farm people. Also, when there are not enough hands to do the work, there is a tendency to deprive one's self of needed sleep and rest and the relaxation and recreation necessary to efficient labor and to balanced living. The home folks, as well as Uncle Sam's recruits, need to budget their day, with health and efficient living in mind. Family planning for shared responsibility and

a spirit of give and take in the family are definite needs in helping the group to adjust "labor problems" within the family.

In addition to the hardships which may be caused in farm homes by sudden withdrawal of the labor supply, there are instances in which this break is being keenly felt emotionally. If this break is openly mourned by parents, youth finds the step into national service more difficult.

Some young people, by contrast, will welcome the break from home and community, reacting to the freedom gained by cutting loose from all "restrictions." Frequently, a break-down in morale and in morals results.

These facts have their implications in relation to mental or emotional health. Youth leaving home for the first time, whether reluctantly or with quickened steps, need to go with a feeling of the security in the love and trust of the home folks.

Affection and confidence expressed verbally by family members and friends, frequent letters, and appropriate treats or gifts to those away from home in defense activities are a valuable means of building morale. Such expressions also have a pronounced effect in keeping the less-stable boy and girl from erratic behavior in a changed environment.

Although much is being done in Army camps to provide wholesome leisures, the home folks may do much through such indirect "remote control" to help the boy hold on to family and community standards.

Deprivations of luxury goods will occur, and substitutes will need to be found for some things now considered necessities. For example, "gasless" Sundays would mean more home and community pleasures to balance the strenuous life of the farm and to take the place of distant and costly commercial pleasures.

# On-the-Spot Farm Broadcasts

JACK TOWERS, South Dakota Radio Extension Specialist

■ "Good morning, farm friends! Today we're speaking to you from McPherson County, the scene of a 4-H rally-day. It's 5 o'clock in the afternoon and we've . . ." Contradictory as it may seem, that is the kind of radio announcement that greets the ears of many early morning farm radio listeners in the north central part of South Dakota, the coverage of Station KABR at Aberdeen. Quite possibly, at the very moment that this announcement comes over the air, the person speaking is at home sound asleep, finishing the latest installment of a persistent dream. Seven o'clock is too early even for most county agents. In spite of all these apparent discrepancies, the words, "by electrical transcription," make the whole thing possible and true.

Clarence Schladweiler, the assistant county agent in Brown County, presents an extension radio broadcast every weekday morning. He has listeners, too. Up until a short time ago, Mr. Schladweiler's audience was mostly local, and he could talk about folks and events in his own Brown County. Recently KABR boosted its morning power from 500 to 5,000 watts. Almost immediately this daily extension broadcaster had a much larger audience, and this increase was mostly outside Brown County. Mr. Schladweiler continued to feature his own county extension events and information from the State extension office and the Department of Agriculture.

Obviously, for the best use of the broadcast time the scope of the program needed adjustment to interest the listeners outside Brown County. Mr. Schladweiler invited neighboring county agents to send him news of their meetings and events. This was very valuable to the show, but this radio-minded agent decided that to improve the service he needed the personal contact of direct broadcasts from outside the county to match the farmer interviews that he presented with local farm people. Wire broadcasts were impossible. Transcriptions proved to be the answer.

Mr. Schladweiler asked me to plan a transcription tour through the counties surrounding Brown. Letters went out asking that each agent set aside a certain half day for radio broadcasting and that he select two of his extension projects as subjects and two or three farm folks to take part in two 7-minute broadcasts. The agent was cautioned not to prepare any script or program details but simply to have good subjects picked out and to provide the folks to tell the story.

We placed the emphasis on telling the story. Mr. Schladweiler conducted the programs on an interview basis from notes which we had carefully rehearsed with the participants just before the broadcast was cut. We always in-

cluded the county agent in the broadcast along with Mr. Schladweiler to tie the show closer to the home folks and to establish a good contact between the agent and the listeners in his own county.

Most of the transcriptions were made out of doors in the barnyards to take advantage of natural sound effects. A wandering litter of pigs is useful in providing a touch of realism in a farm radio broadcast.

The transcription tour netted 22 broadcasts for the morning KABR program. Some originated from the bank of a Soil Conservation Service terrace, a Forest Service shelterbelt, and a stock water dam constructed under the Agricultural Adjustment Administration program. Such cooperation among agencies is typical of Mr. Schladweiler's regular program. When the weather was bad the transcriptions were cut in barns, farm homes, grocery stores, a print shop, and a few county extension offices.

The recording equipment for an expedition like this must obviously be portable. The recorder used by the South Dakota State College Extension Service can be easily hauled in a two-door sedan with the battery power supply located in the rear trunk compartment. Our system is very reliable and produces broadcasts which equal the quality of a studio pick-up. The Extension Service uses this same recorder for its regular radio service of college specialist discussions.

The management of KABR is very glad to be able to offer these transcribed broadcasts from out in the station's trade territory. They

feel that the broadcasts increase their farm audiences. When I asked Clarence Schladweiler about the value of the radio tour, he said: "I am convinced very definitely that our remote transcriptions have increased the effectiveness of our morning program. I meet many folks who tell me that they are interested in our program. It seems to me that we have better attendance at our meetings. The other agents have mentioned how interested their farm folks were in hearing their neighbors over the air. All in all, these transcriptions increase listener interest in our extension program, and that is what we are after. And I cannot overlook the fact that each completed recording means an extra hour of morning sleep."

## South Dakota Mattresses

Forty-four counties in South Dakota are making mattresses. It is estimated that by October 31 more than 19,000 mattresses will have been made. Charles Mix County, with applications for 1,800 mattresses and 958 of them finished late in July, heads the list. This county has also made 1,735 comforters. Kingsbury, Day, and Hutchinson Counties are next in line with applications for 1,080 mattresses each.

Usually three families work together to make mattresses for each family. When all the mattresses have been completed by this group, lots are drawn for the particular one each is to have. No hard and fast rule is applied to the division of work. In some communities the men have accepted as their responsibility the making of the mattresses, and the women sew the ticks. The men have the needed strength for beating the cotton to distribute it evenly and to fluff it satisfactorily as well as to sew the roll edge.

Making radio transcriptions in the field seems to be an easy job for County Agent Al O'Connell, Day County, S. Dak., in the center; Farmer A. M. Biersbach at the left; and Mr. Schladweiler at the right, pictured here in a bluegrass pasture.



# To Bridge the Gap—A Sabbatical Leave

KATHARINE E. BENNITT, Home Demonstration Agent, Fresno County, Calif.

■ How can we narrow the gap between research and its application? In the program for total national defense, the enrichment of foods with vitamins and minerals is a means of stepping up the tempo of application of recent nutrition research. More people will be better fed nutritionally. Similarly, there is a lead and lag in other fields of education between announcements of discoveries and their incorporation in an educational program.

Time is a vital factor in the life of an extension agent—time to carry on a program of extension activities, time to study research results, and time to observe new methods and materials useful in adult education. Sabbatical leave allows such time for study, opens the door of opportunity to some of these new developments that will enrich the background of experience, and helps to bridge the gap between research and its application in the field of agricultural extension.

As a home demonstration agent on sabbatical leave from the California Agricultural Extension Service, I would like to offer a few observations from 3 months of study at Columbia University, New York City, and their application to extension work.

We may well take stock of ourselves as adult educators and ask a few questions. Are we aware of the way in which adults learn, that we may apply the best psychology in our teaching for the maximum results? Are we applying new methods and materials in keeping with a changing world and a changing rural society? Are we adapting our extension program to meet the needs of the increasing youth population in rural areas? Are we making use of all the local educational opportunities for the enrichment of farm family living?

From the research laboratories on adult learning, we find useful material, the result of scientific studies made with adults. Some of these results are quickly recognized from experience in working with adults and have all the more meaning. However, it is the awareness of the facts that will lead to greater application in extension methods.

Certain physiological changes take place with increasing age. Visual acuity, which shows a slow decline from 20 to 40 years, declines rapidly from 40 to 60 years. The eye almost predicts physiological age.

Increase of illumination increases the eye operation, the maximum amount of illumination being essential for eye adjustment. Greater efficiency and greater interest in the work with less fatigue will result from greater illumination. What a challenge this is to the extension program for further improvement of home lighting and of improved lighting

for community meeting places! Improved lighting has a direct bearing on the effectiveness of adult teaching. Demonstration material, charts, and other visual aids should be so planned and exhibited that they are readily seen by the audience. Even so small a thing as using yellow chalk on a blackboard instead of white, to increase visibility, is a factor that can be applied.

Loss of hearing handicaps many adults. A United States Public Health survey in 84 cities and 23 rural areas showed 69 percent to be normal, 12 percent deaf to the extent of not understanding speech in meetings, 9 percent not understanding speech directly in front of them, and 7 percent nearly or totally deaf.

Implications of the studies are of value to the teacher of adults. In addressing a group if the speaker stands in the direct line of vision so that members of the audience may see his lips, he will be better heard.

Speed is another variable in dealing with adults. Speed declines with age. Adults move more slowly. Tests made with younger adults and older adults showed, however, no loss of sheer power to deal with the intellectual as age increases when the speed factor was eliminated. Adults retain the ability to learn, but an extension worker should con-

sider that adults cannot do things with the same speed as a younger group and plan the program accordingly.

Learning is increased by a satisfactory situation—the room cheerful, the hospitality cordial, the group never feeling let down. General satisfyingness will speed the entire learning. Adult learners are often held back by self-consciousness. Putting people at ease facilitates the learning process.

Not all extension work is with adults. The youth problem presents a challenge when we note that the 1940 census indicates an estimated 1 million more youths in rural areas than in 1930. A study of rural sociology gives a realization of the situation. Economic opportunities for rural youth are meager. The farms available are far below the number of youths, and the change in rural communities has enlarged the interests and contacts of boys and girls on the farm. Economic security, education, opportunities for adequate social life, and opportunities for marriage and establishing homes are needed. The morale of rural youth is high. Meeting the problems and needs of rural youth today opens wide the door for an extension program in agriculture and home economics. 4-H Club work has already proved its value, and now arises the increasing need for a program to meet

Studying at Teachers College, Columbia University, are (left to right at top): Nelle Thompson, 4-H specialist, Iowa; Katharine E. Bennett, home demonstration agent, Fresno, Calif.; Mrs. Charlotte Buslaff, nutrition specialist, Wisconsin; Gladys Sivert, home demonstration agent, Massachusetts; and Martha Allison, home demonstration agent, Virginia. Lower row: Ella Johnson, former home demonstration agent, North Dakota; Floye Flood, child development specialist, Oklahoma; Elizabeth Watson, clothing specialist, South Carolina; Orpha Brown, home demonstration agent, Montana; Grace Gerard, Teachers College, Columbia University; Ida Hagman, home management specialist, Kentucky; Helen Brown, home demonstration agent, Ohio; Hazel Hill, clothing specialist, New Hampshire; and Beatrice Fehr, home demonstration agent, New York.



the problems of young people beyond 4-H Club age.

Aside from the Columbia University classroom, New York City itself offers unlimited opportunities to an extension worker on sabbatical leave for field trips and cultural and educational experiences. A course of field trips in textiles and clothing has included visits to manufacturing establishments, wholesale and retail business concerns, and museums. Fascinating were the steps in the manufacture of cotton into its finished product—cotton thread. At a pattern company, we observed the art and originality of pattern designing and the accuracy with which patterns are cut. We saw the designing and making of children's hats and coats by a firm that sells from coast to coast. The headquarters of a large chain concern having 1,600 chain stores throughout the country gave us a picture of the influence of chain stores in rural and small communities. The making of shoes from start to finish was observed on another trip. At a dry-cleaning plant, the equipment and method of dry-cleaning garments and the cleaning and storing of fur coats were of interest.

An all-night trip through the New York markets was particularly revealing. In passing through the vegetable and fruit markets, the wholesale meat and fish markets, and the flower market, the relationship of the farmer to the consumer and the tremendous task of handling the produce was impressive.

Art exhibits, the theater, concerts, museums, lectures, conferences, markets, and shops are among the numerous opportunities which have added to the enrichment of living and the pleasure of a sabbatical year. A trip to Ithaca to attend Cornell Farm and Home week and 5 days in Washington for Easter vacation offered further variety and inspiration.

At the end of 3 months of study, I have attempted to sum up in this article a few of the priceless experiences of value to me as a home demonstration agent. For an extension agent, a leave for study provides one way to help bridge the gap between the research laboratory and the new developments in education and their application in the field of agricultural extension. I recommend it most heartily to others, and I am grateful for the privilege of sabbatical leave granted to me by the University of California.

lationship was found between number of acres of tillable land and improved home situations. Even on the good land, very small acreages were associated with less adequate home conditions. In addition, the percentage of homemakers participating in the extension program increased as the acreage of tillable land per farm increased, and a higher percentage of the homemakers on larger farms who participated adopted recommended practices.

A study of home conditions and income available for family living brought out that the two are in direct relationship to each other.

Although home conditions were somewhat better in homes of farm owners than of tenants, differences were not greatly significant. As large a percentage of the farmers on the poor land as on the good land own their farms.

Home conditions of nonfarmers living in the areas studied were much below the average. It is improbable, however, that their being nonfarmers was responsible for these conditions. It is more likely that their financial conditions were such that they had to search for cheap rural residences which, together with insufficient and poor home equipment, brought about the inadequate conditions. In addition, a number of the nonfarmers were laboring people who move often and who generally are expected to be found in less desirable homes.

As a group, homemakers who have participated in extension work were found to be in families with higher estimated incomes for family living. Their farms are larger, and more of them own their own automobiles with a higher percentage able to drive them than in the case of nonparticipants. Participating homemakers have more adequate homes and equipment. Larger amounts of home-produced food supplies were found in the homes of participants, probably due to their having more money at their disposal.

The most frequent reasons given by homemakers for nonparticipation in the extension program were the following: No transportation; not familiar with extension activities; poor health of self; advanced age; procrastination; no one to care for small children; not interested in group meetings or organizations of any kind; heavy housekeeping duties; no contact with extension club or group; and poor health of members of the family.

Much optimism can be gained from the fact that 58 percent of all homemakers interviewed reported changes in homemaking practices due to extension influence and that an average of 3.2 practices had been changed per home. The latter figure doubtless is conservative, as it is difficult to ascertain all adopted practices in the course of a brief interview. Since the sample areas studied included a somewhat larger percentage of poor land than is found in the county as a whole the percentage of homemakers throughout the county participating in extension work is undoubtedly greater than indicated by this study.

## Poor Homes Follow Poor Land

**L. M. BUSCHE, in Charge of Extension Studies, and STARLEY M. HUNTER, Assistant Home Demonstration Leader, Indiana Extension Service**

Land use planning activities in Indiana have brought about consideration of a number of related problems. One question which has often been asked by leaders in this activity is: "What differences, if any, exist between home situations on land designated by county committees as unsuited to cultivated crops and those on the 'good' land in the county?"

To help answer this question, a study was carried out in Parke County, Ind., with county extension agents and representatives of the State and Federal extension offices cooperating.

Also, the study was designed to obtain information for home economics program planning and to ascertain the extent of influence of home economics extension work, as well as how to increase its effectiveness.

A survey party made up of 11 county, State, and Federal extension workers, headed by Meredith C. Wilson, chief, and Gladys Gallup, senior home economist, Division of Field Studies and Training, visited 234 farm homes in 3 blocks in widely separated areas of the county.

In general, it was found that families on the good land of Parke County have larger farms; they have higher estimated incomes for family living; more of them own automobiles; and a larger percentage of the homemakers drive the family car than families on the poor land. Their houses are larger; the

appearance of their home places is better; the condition of the buildings is better; and furnishings and housekeeping are better than of families on land thought to be unsuited for general farming.

Larger percentages of homes on the good land have such equipment as telephones, running water, sinks with drains, flush toilets, power washing machines, refrigerators, sweepers, and pressure cookers than in the other group. Electricity and electrical appliances are more prevalent in the homes on good land.

Gardens on the good land are larger, and families produce and can more vegetables for home use. Other home-produced foods are used to a greater extent by these families.

Also, farmers and homemakers on the good land have had more years of formal education and more of them subscribe to newspapers. Whereas 67 percent of the homes on good land had some member of the family participating in extension work at the time of the study, only 28 percent of those on the poor land were participating. Fifteen percent of the homemakers had served as leaders in adult extension work at some time, but only one leader had come from the poor land. None of the homemakers who had served as 4-H Club leaders had come from the poor land.

Farms on the good land contained a much higher percentage of tillable area. Close re-

# California Develops Potato County

**M. A. LINDSAY, County Agricultural Agent, Kern County, Calif.**

Early settlers in Kern County grew potatoes in the mountains in the vicinity of Tehachapi at an elevation of about 4,000 feet as early as 1870. Reports from early settlers indicate that they hauled their crop, other than that which was used in the community, to Los Angeles by horse- and ox-drawn vehicles. This industry, however, apparently disappeared prior to the World War period. The Agricultural Extension Service was established in Kern County in 1914, and in records available between 1914 and 1919, little mention is made of potatoes being grown commercially in the county. A few growers in 1918 attempted the production of Irish potatoes on a small commercial scale. Their yields did not exceed 100 sacks of 100 pounds each per acre. Some yields were as low as 50 sacks per acre. Some assistance was given to a few growers in the production of potatoes between 1918 and 1922.

## *Varieties Tested*

The Agricultural Extension Service began preliminary work on Irish potatoes by obtaining several varieties and encouraging growers to try these various varieties. The ones that proved successful were the early White Rose and Bliss Triumph. As a result of these early tests, White Rose has become the leading variety produced in the county.

Following the variety trials, demonstrations were organized on high-quality seed and seed treatment from 1922 to 1925. However, in 1923 and 1924, some growers had become interested in having the Agricultural Extension Service try various types of commercial fertilizers. Few profitable results were obtained, as most of the materials used were of potash and phosphorus.

By 1925, it appeared that the potato industry was becoming established in the county. On March 1, 1925, a fertilizer project was prepared and definite procedure outlined for the conducting of many tests with various types of fertilizers. From 1925 to 1930, the testing of the value of nitrogen, phosphorus, and potash was conducted each year. These tests included various amounts of each material; and, as a result of this long series of complicated tests, a recommendation was made to the potato growers that they use approximately 350 pounds of ammonium sulfate per acre and that in no case should more than 400 pounds be used.

During 1931 to 1934, various methods of irrigating potatoes were completed. These irrigation tests were conducted in relation to various amounts of nitrogen fertilizer. It was found that where amounts of ammonium sulfate in excess of 400 pounds were applied to

potatoes, more frequent irrigations were necessary to maintain quality. At the close of the 1934 season, the Agricultural Extension Service recommended that from 500 to 700 pounds of ammonium sulfate be used per acre and that irrigation be frequent enough to avoid any wilting of the vines. From 1935 until the present year, it has been the common practice of our growers to follow this recommendation with variations to meet conditions on their individual ranches.

## *Profits Recorded*

During the development of this industry, the acreage has maintained almost a continuous increase in growth from 1924 to 1941. The yield for the county increased steadily from 1927 to 1936. From 1936 to the present date, the yield has declined for the county as a whole. The declines in yield can be accounted for by two specific reasons: (1) Ring rot has caused considerable reduction in yields, and no answer has been found as yet to solve this problem other than the purchase of clean seed which is not yet 100 percent available to the growers; (2) decrease in yield has not necessarily meant a decrease in profit. For the last 9 years the Agricultural Extension Service has published and distributed to the growers information with reference to competing areas, prices, and supply and demand each year, urging growers to expand their marketing period by earlier and later plantings. As a result, new areas have been developed in the county in the last 5 years that now account for more than 15,000 acres, 12,000 of which are dug early and marketed at a higher price but with a lower yield. The other 3,000 acres are planted late in a mountain region where lower yields are obtained than in the original area where the industry started.

The year 1941 will see a harvest from approximately 31,000 acres with a yield of probably about the same as that of 1939 and 1940. The growers at the present time are following almost unanimously all of the recommendations made during the period of 1919 to 1940. They are (1) using the highest-quality seed obtainable, (2) producing primarily White Rose potatoes (97 percent of the crop is White Rose), (3) using approximately 600 pounds of ammonium sulfate per acre, (4) irrigating often enough to avoid wilting of the plants, (5) spread their planting period from that of the months of February and March in 1930 to the months of October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May, and June in 1941, and (6) proper seed treatment.

The growers in 1940 produced in Kern County about 5,500,000 100-pound sacks of potatoes. The estimated cost for the produc-

tion of potatoes is about \$100 per acre. All potatoes produced in this county are produced by the application of irrigation water. All of this irrigation water is lifted by irrigation pumps, the depth of lift ranging from 50 to 300 feet, with an average of about 80 feet. The length of the rows through which the irrigation water is run will average about one-fourth mile. The rows are ridged to a height of about 10 inches, the water being permitted to run between the rows. The common practice of irrigation at the present time is to irrigate every other row every other day. This means, of course, frequent but very light applications.

There was no potato industry in Kern County in 1919. Today "Long White Potatoes" (the commercial name) are sold in every major consuming market from California to New York. The acreage has increased from 100 acres in 1919 to an estimated 31,000 acres in 1941. The yield has increased from 100 sacks in 1919 to 289 sacks in 1936, the yield now being in the neighborhood of 185 sacks per acre. The number of growers has increased from 15 in 1919 to approximately 425 in 1941.

## **Through to Market**

A group of 75 Texas boys have again carried their 4-H calves and lambs through a season of good feeding to the sale at the Kansas City market. The 289 calves and 430 lambs took 17 full cars for transportation. Nineteen adult leaders and 11 county agents and assistants accompanied the boys and their animals to market.

The animals were all numbered to indicate their ownership; and each person, whether he had 1 or 15 calves, got an individual sale sheet and check to cover his net returns. Thus the central market educational program follows on the heels of a good feeding program.

Besides attending the sale, the boys had a chance to get acquainted with the Kansas City stockyards and packing houses, and study live-stock market classes.

"The educational job is only at the half-way mark when a fat animal has been produced," says K. J. Edwards, Texas district agent, who has found that this activity is training a large group of boys, men, and also county agents in the marketing and grading of livestock in a commercial way.

County Agent C. B. Martin of Hale County has had much to do with the development of this program which influences 4-H Club work in the whole area. REVIEW readers will remember his article on the subject on page 1 of the January 1940 issue.

# Iowa Youth in a Defense Economy

ROBERT C. CLARK, Rural Youth Specialist, Iowa

■ Getting started in farming and home-making amidst the tensions and uncertainties of national defense is a real problem for Iowa rural young people.

Take the case of Bill and Jane. They are fictitious but pretty real because they represent two rural young Iowans who have decided to get married and start a farm home of their own. Shall they go into partnership with Bill's dad, or shall they rent? How much money would it be wise to borrow? For what should credit be used? What are prices and interest rates likely to do? How many cows and plows does it take? What effect will the national defense program have on what they produce and what they buy?

About 160 representatives of 42 county rural young people's organizations discussed these problems with farm and home management specialists in a series of district meetings last spring. The 2 young men and 2 young women representing each county went back home and led a similar discussion at the regular monthly meeting of their organization. Mimeographed reference material was made available by the specialists for the entire membership.

## *The Draft Up for Discussion*

Bill and Jane's Contribution to National Defense was the topic for discussion at a similar series of meetings. Their job in strengthening democracy is being faced by rural young people's groups in Iowa as a challenge. During the past year the terms "democracy" and "citizenship" have taken on a new meaning, both as a personal way of life and as a system of social and political organization.

So, besides studying the topics for discussion, the young people have called upon representatives of their local draft boards, draftees on leave, recruiting officers, and similar leaders to lead discussions at their local meetings. They have visited county courthouses and conferred with county officials on responsibilities to and services of the county government. Discussion outlines on understanding our local government have been prepared. They provide a means by which rural young people can become more intelligent citizens in their communities and thus strengthen this aspect of our democratic way of life.

Dramatic skits are proving an effective means of popularizing the application of citizenship and democratic principles in day-to-day activities. What Is Democracy to Me? Democracy in the Home, and Democracy in Meetings have a new meaning to rural young people as they present skits on these topics at their meetings.

Young Americans in Action, a pageant

written and directed by Mrs. Pearl Converse, extension rural sociologist, was used at the annual State-wide assembly of older rural youth. It portrayed the fashioning of our flag, what the flag and Bill of Rights symbolize to every person, and especially to those becoming voters. As young citizens representing many vocations, members of the Story County Junior Farm Bureau depicted the services they receive from the local and county government and the contributions which they in turn must make.

The State-wide conference of the 60 county groups of rural young people beyond 4-H Club interests provided an opportunity for intelligent thought, democratic action, and inspira-

tion on topics of immediate concern to the 500 young people present.

A panel consisting of young people and visiting speakers discussed Our Responsibilities as Citizens in Making Democracy Work. The problem, How Can Our Rural Youth Program Contribute to Effective Citizenship, was considered in small-group discussions.

Individual responsibilities as a good citizen emphasized by the young people included: Do your own thinking; be tolerant; be honest; be willing to accept responsibilities; be cooperative; have a working faith in the democratic way of life; have high Christian ideals; and be open-minded. Contributions through group effort that they recommended included: Sponsoring induction-into-citizenship programs; studying and supporting local, county, and State governments; analyzing current social and economic problems; and practicing democratic procedures in cooperating with other groups and programs.

## From Color to Black and White

■ The making of black-and-white prints from color negatives although still in the toddling stage, promises to have a part in shaping the visual-education program of the Missouri Agricultural Extension Service.

For those county extension workers who cannot afford two cameras and who choose to keep color film in their miniature camera most of the time, and for those specialists who take nothing else but color, the developing of regular prints from their color photos proves highly helpful.

Let it be said at this point that suggestions to Missouri agents definitely emphasize the advisability of having both a roll-film camera taking about 2 1/4- by 3 1/4-inch negative and a small 35-millimeter camera for color work. However, many of the agents have found it financially impossible to obtain both; and frequently they have selected the smaller camera, as color slides can be used easily and effectively by 80 percent of the county offices which have available projectors for showing such slides.

The trend in this direction is indicated by our 1940 annual report which states that 54 of the Missouri extension agents now have these small cameras, as compared to only 2 in 1937. Incidentally, two-thirds of our specialists also use natural-color photos in their work and most of them take their own.

To the worker with a file of color slides and nothing else, it is comforting to know that when he needs photographs to illustrate his annual report, for newspapers, or for other use, he can have them made from his color transparencies. Our photo service at the University of Missouri will make a 3- by 4 1/2-inch negative from a 1- by 1 1/2-inch color

transparency for 40 cents, the prints from the negative then being the usual price. Thus for four prints, the cost would be 60 cents or, 15 cents a print. This averages higher than the cost of making the usual black-and-white photograph of this size but is not out of reason. This price probably is lower than that charged by the average commercial company.

The quality of the finished print varies with the quality of the original color transparency. If the original scene or view would have made a good black-and-white photograph, then the final print made from the color transparency should be good.

## 4-H Professionals

Twenty hours on the air over Station KOAC is the record of 346 4-H Club members attending Oregon's 1941 summer school. Talent auditions preceded the radio rehearsals with the result that 53 programs in all were broadcast with the poise of professionals.

There were three radio revues. Two 1-hour evening programs were broadcast before the entire student body. The third, a special Kiwanis Club revue of a half-hour duration, was presented for the Eighth Annual Interclub Banquet held on the campus of Oregon State College.

Programs were given representing Portland and each of Oregon's 36 counties. Other programs included 10 afternoon assembly features, 8 4-H Club plays, and a Sunday service. In addition, there were 2 all-school plays for which casts were chosen from the summer school at large.

## 4-H Club Members Develop Self-Confidence

Two studies of 4-H Club influence show that the members placed greater confidence in their own abilities after participating in 4-H Club work.

Members of vegetable garden and food preservation clubs were tested at the beginning of their projects and again at the end, 5 months later. Members of 4-H vegetable garden clubs developed confidence in their ability to plant and care for a vegetable garden. Members of 4-H food preservation clubs developed confidence in their ability to can food products.

Equivalent groups of boys and girls who were not members of those clubs were also tested in each of the studies. The non-members of the vegetable garden club did not gain or lose self-confidence; the non-members of the food preservation clubs lost self-confidence.

The different procedures for measuring self-confidence used in the two studies do not permit comparisons of individuals in the vegetable garden study with those in the food preservation study. These studies carried on in Massachusetts in 1939 have recently been reported in Extension Service Circulars 353 and 356.

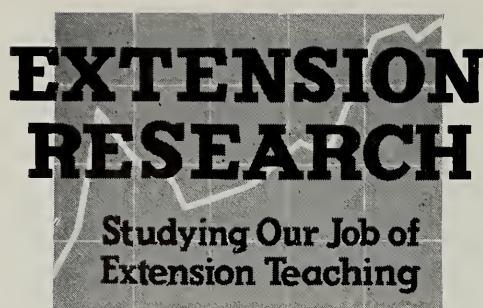
## Planning for Older Youth

A study of the older youth of rural Minnesota made in 1939 by Ruby Christenson, rural youth agent, shows to what extent the young people have been reached by the 5-year rural youth program involving 48 organized groups. The possibilities of reaching many more young people through a carefully planned program are also pointed out.

Information for the study was obtained from personal interviews with 408 unmarried young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 living on farms in Brown and Faribault Counties, and from 152 questionnaires which had been sent to rural youth members throughout the State.

Published by the Minnesota Extension Service in Pamphlet No. 78, the survey includes data on the educational background and major problems of the Minnesota older youth, their vocational status and choice, and their participation in local organizations.

"The fact that over half of all these young people have never been enrolled in 4-H Club work would indicate that the rural youth program must not depend too heavily on former club workers to supply the nucleus of the rural youth organization," points out Miss Christenson. "At the same time the 4-H Club program should lead to the rural youth group which should be of assistance in bringing more young people into contact with the club program. Undoubtedly more emphasis should be placed on those who have not been 4-H Club members. \* \* \* The rural youth program



is reaching comparatively few of the young people on the farms today, but its potential membership is large. This group offers a challenge to the Extension Service."

## What Do People Like To Read?

To find out what features some 15,000 subscribers of two Iowa State College magazines enjoy, Hadley Read of the Bulletin Office staff conducted a reader-interest survey this year. The magazines of about 16 pages each have the same general format and style of writing. Both use illustrations extensively, and are sent free upon request. About 85 percent of the readers are farmers or farm owners. Many of them receive both magazines.

To avoid duplication of names in the survey, a short questionnaire was mailed to the first 5,000 names of the alphabetical mailing list of The Farm Science Reporter and to the last 5,000 names of The Iowa Farm Economist list.

Approximately 32 percent of the subscribers polled on each magazine responded. Equally significant was the similarity of the appraisals of the different readers of the two publications. For instance, in each group about 70 percent of the readers liked the large number of illustrations printed in both magazines, 22 percent preferred the use of general farm pictures, and 58 percent approved the length of the articles. Of 29 articles in 4 issues of the Reporter (a quarterly publication) over 62 percent were 6 columns or longer. Of 64 articles published in 12 monthly issues of the Economist, only 38 percent of the articles were 2 pages or longer. Both magazines used about the same proportion of 1- and 2-column articles.

The choice of statistical tables in preference to written discussions caused considerable surprise. About 40 percent of the readers of each magazine preferred tables, and 32 percent chose written discussions. Charts and graphs were definitely preferred to tables for presenting information by a vote of almost 3 to 1.

■ EXTENSION PUBLICATIONS are more interesting to rural people than to city people. This was brought out in a study made in Massachusetts by Earle S. Carpenter, secretary of the State Extension Service, to de-

termine whether extension publications were serving the people. More than 18,000 requests for publications received over a 2-year period and some 19,000 cards returned in response to announcements of new literature were tabulated by towns and counties which were classified into groups according to population. In towns of less than 2,500 inhabitants, 1 out of 87 persons requested publications; in cities over 100,000 only 1 request for every 406 people was received. The four groups of cities between these extremes show a constant decrease in number of requests as the size of the city increases. This same trend is seen in the tabulation by counties.

Similar relationship, with even more marked differentials, existed between the size of the community and the number of cards returned in response to announcements of new literature. For instance, towns of less than 2,500 population showed more than 13 times as much interest in receiving the literature as the cities over 100,000.

■ IN ANOTHER STUDY on periodical reading of rural families in 26 Nebraska counties in 1939, 86 percent of the 1,257 home demonstration club members surveyed subscribed to a daily newspaper; 65 percent subscribed to a weekly or semiweekly newspaper; and 94 percent read magazines regularly. More than one-third of the homemakers had gone beyond high school.

Taking part in extension activities were a large percentage of younger homemakers—21 percent were less than 30 years old, 30 percent were from 30 to 39 years of age, and 27 percent ranged in age from 40 to 49 years.

Sixty percent of the homemakers lived on farms which averaged 402 acres. Twenty-eight percent of the farms were operated by the owners.

## Let's Have Fewer Colds

To get some concrete facts on what is good nutrition, the Oregon Extension Service made a preliminary health survey in Jackson County as a basis for a State-wide nutrition program. With the slogan, "Let's have fewer colds," the work got under way with 210 families, involving some 750 children and adults in 17 communities, enrolling in the better-health drive. Each family was asked to select at least one improved food practice as a goal for the year.

The survey revealed that 88 percent of the people included in the study had suffered from colds the preceding year. Many of the colds had resulted in serious complications.

These findings revealed the prevalence and severity of colds and served as a stimulant to corrective health practices and improved food habits. At the end of the year 80 percent of the families reported 743 improved health practices. Nearly 73 percent of the families increased the use of protective foods, including milk, green and yellow vegetables, fruits, whole-grain cereals, and fish.

# Extension Loses Key Man in Death of Mark Thayer

■ In the death on August 3, 1941, of Mark M. Thayer, at the age of 54 years, the Federal Extension Service suffered the loss of one of its most valued staff members. As Assistant to the Director and as Chief of the Division of Business Administration, Mr. Thayer contributed greatly to the effectiveness of the Department Extension Service through perfecting those administrative, fiscal, and procurement processes which are so essential to the smooth functioning of a large organization.

Born and educated in Cohasset, Mass., Mr. Thayer, after 7 years of commercial employment, was appointed in December 1911 to the Isthmian Canal Commission. In January 1913, he transferred to the Office of Farm Management Field Studies and Demonstrations of the United States Department of Agriculture, which, under Dr. W. J. Spillman and Dr. C. B. Smith, had begun extension work in the Northern and Western States on the county agent plan. Thus began for Mr. Thayer an association with cooperative extension work which lasted almost 30 years. The only interlude to this extension association was during World War No. 1, when he served for 6 months in 1918 in the Quartermaster Department of the United States Marines' headquarters in Washington, first as private, and then as assistant chief clerk with the rank of sergeant.

Beginning on June 1, 1920, when he was appointed executive assistant to Dr. C. B. Smith, Chief of the Office of Extension Work, North and West, his responsibilities for office management gradually increased until, at the time of his death, he was handling a great volume of important administrative matters for Director M. L. Wilson.

Quiet and unassuming, but thoroughly capable and objective in his viewpoints, it was in this realm of business management and administration that his talents found their greatest usefulness.

In a letter to Director M. L. Wilson, Secretary Wickard paid tribute to the contribution which Mr. Thayer made to the effective functioning of the Federal Extension Service. He said:

"It is with a great deal of regret that I learned of the recent death of Mark M. Thayer. I find that he served the Department of Agriculture for almost 30 years, and always with the same high efficiency and loyalty which we who have come to the Department more recently learned to expect from him.

"I know that the Extension Service has lost a key man and that you will miss his touch which did so much to keep your organization moving smoothly and effectively.



Mark M. Thayer, 1887-1941.

"He earned the respect and confidence of all who came in contact with him and was a splendid example of those who devote their lives and talents to Government service. The Department can ill afford to lose men of the caliber of Mark Thayer."

## An Old Chapel Revitalized

Making an old chapel into a useful community center has been the special community project of the Caneleville Club in Berkley County, W. Va.

The chapel was built originally by public subscription on land donated by a citizen of the community. It was used as a union Sunday-school building and was never dedicated to any denomination. Many of the present citizens of the community attended Sunday school there as children. With the coming of the automobile many went to Martinsburg and Shepherdstown to church. Later a church was built in the community, and the chapel was closed.

Vanceleville Farm Women's Club took the responsibility for the care and repair of the chapel about 15 years ago. At that time the building was not in use. They have painted the exterior, improved the lawn, planted trees, had tables built and chairs repaired, wired the building for lighting, and bought a piano. They have regular janitor service, and the lawn is mowed during the summer months.

The chapel is used as a meeting place for

the farm women's club, the 4-H Club, and for any other educational meetings. The Red Cross has held first-aid schools there. Each year the club holds in the chapel a special Mother's Day service and a vesper. At its December meeting the club has a beautiful Christmas program. The chapel is open to all organizations in the community and truly has a place in the heart of every citizen of the community. Mrs. W. H. S. White, a member of the League of American Pen Women and a member of the farm women's club, has written a poem about the chapel which was chosen for publication in "Christmas Lyrics of 1940."

This year the club has added to the beauty of the chapel by painting the interior, making colorful new draperies for the windows, making a rack with hangers for coats, and adding an electric outlet.

To celebrate its achievement, the Vancleville Farm Women's Club held a tea in May in the chapel to which members of the county farm women's organizations and their friends were invited. Next year the club plans to landscape the lawn.

## Community Hotbeds

Community cooperation brings rewards to the individual farmer in Macon County, Ala., where a cooperative fire-heated hotbed for growing early sweetpotato plants was operated successfully in Mount Zion community.

Plans were furnished by R. T. Thurston, Negro county agent. The potatoes were bedded on February 24, and the plants were ready to set in the field the first week in April. Thus, through a cooperative effort, these farmers had some of the earliest potato plants in the county.

■ N. W. GAINES, extension community specialist in Nebraska, has now spoken in every village, hamlet, town, and city in the State, having given 3,000 speeches on agriculture. Mr. Gaines who is probably more widely known over the State than any other citizen of Nebraska has inspired many thousands of people. "Public speaking is a matter of keeping the audience entertained," says Mr. Gaines; and then he likes to slip in an idea or two.

■ The County Agent, a small eight-page magazine published quarterly in the interest of self-improvement of county agent personnel by the National Association of County Agricultural Agents, has come off the press. It carries reports of the annual meeting of the association and news items on the activities of county agents in many States.

■ The 4-H Clubs of Fulton, Herkimer, and Montgomery Counties N. Y. recently got together for a tri-county fire-prevention program.

# Texas Features the Whole Farm Demonstration

■ Texas extension workers have been pushing whole-farm-and-ranch demonstrations since 1937; and even before that at least one county agricultural agent, C. M. Knight, had active whole-farm demonstrators enrolled in Red River County. Mr. Knight is now county agricultural agent in Hudspeth County. The idea, of course, was not new. Dr. Seaman A. Knapp himself visualized long-time planning and improvement of farms and homes from the front gate to the back fields, but the name was not tacked to the idea until the 1930's.

The whole-farm and whole-ranch idea did not exactly sweep Texas like a prairie fire, and it must be admitted that extension workers were slower to accept the idea than the farm families. County extension agents were accustomed to helping people with one improvement at a time, and they were not sure that families would commit themselves to a more complete and slightly more complicated system of records. It was hard to realize that these demonstrations were not intended to become ideal or model set-ups.

In promoting whole-farm and whole-ranch demonstrations, the Extension Service wanted to do two things: First, help typical families to enjoy a better living in the home and a greater income from the farm; second, to help typical families do jobs that could be copied or adapted by their neighbors. These "jobs" might be to practice better methods of conserving the soil, increasing the family food supply, beautifying the home, and improving livestock.

Within the 2-year period, 1937-39, extension workers concentrated their effort on the quality of whole-farm-and-ranch demonstrations rather than on their quantity. So, in November 1939, the editors of the Texas Extension Service changed the style of their house organ and began a series of 12 articles devoted to these demonstrations. Informal feature stories were written after an all-day visit with the family during which the editors took pictures, looked at records, and toured the farm or ranch. The 12 families which the editors visited represented every section of the State and just about every phase of agriculture.

Tyrus R. Timm, extension economist in farm management, and Louise Bryant, extension specialist in home management, point out that it is impossible to measure the influence of the Extensioner series on the whole farm demonstration program. They do know, however, that at the end of the series there were 600 functioning whole-farm-and-ranch demonstrations in Texas. They believe, too, that the series was a valuable tool in stimulating and maintaining staff interest.

Both of them tell how county extension

agents on their visits to new demonstrators would take along copies of the magazine and ask the enrolling families to read the stories of what other families were doing. On the basis of reports submitted by county agents, the district agents chose the families to be visited by the extension editors.

During the year of the whole-farm series, the mailing list of the Extensioner was increased by about 10 percent.

Where well-established demonstrations exist, communities are proud of them. Frequently, field days, community short courses, and training schools for agents are held on demonstration farms. In some counties, well-advertised tours are made to these homes with county commissioners, legislators, and agricultural leaders as special guests. For two summers, visits to whole-farm demonstrations have been part of a prescribed home demonstration course at the University of Texas.

County extension agents found that these special events have merited considerable publicity in their local newspapers. Frequently, local newspaper representatives are invited to accompany groups on the tour, and farm editors of large Texas dailies are also cooperative.

Lubbock County with 15 leads the State in the number of whole-farm demonstration families enrolled. Most counties have 3 or 4, and the present trend is toward having 1 or more for each type-of-farming area or soils-type area in the county. In many counties, community and county land use planning committees are responsible for the choosing of all new whole-farm-and-ranch demonstrators.

## Have You Read?

**Hunger Signs in Crops.** 327 pp. Judd & Detweiler, Inc., Washington, D. C.

This book is an epochal contribution to the field of scientific agricultural publications. For the first time, there is gathered together within the covers of a splendidly prepared and illustrated book all available information that will help scientists and farmers to recognize the signs of nutritional deficiency in crop plants.

Hunger Signs in Crops is published by the American Society of Agronomy and the National Fertilizer Association. Its editor is Gove Hambidge, editor of the now famous yearbooks of the Department of Agriculture issued during recent years. The authors are the following nationally known scientists: George M. Bahrt, Bailey E. Brown, Arthur F. Camp, H. D. Chapman, H. P. Cooper, O. W. Davidson, Ernest E. DeTurk, George N. Hoffer, Henry A. Jones, James E. McMurtrey, Jr., Edwin R. Parker, Robert M. Salter, George D. Scarseth, and Joshua J. Skinner.

As Mr. Hambidge points out, "this book marks one more step in the study of nutrition from the soil on up through man. What the soil does not have, plants will not get, and animals and men will lack also. The welfare of man is intimately bound up with the welfare of soils and plants because all our food comes in the first instance from plants."

Hunger Signs in Crops sheds new light on practical means of determining deficiencies in the soil of calcium, magnesium, phosphorus, potassium, sulfur, and nitrogen, and of the not so frequently deficient but nonetheless important elements of plant growing—manganese, boron, zinc, copper, and iron.

In commenting on this book, Director M. L. Wilson stated the following: "This is a very fine publication, and I am sure it will be of value to the Agricultural Extension Service. The illustrations are among the best that I have ever seen, and the material is extremely well-organized and most qualitative."

In view of the importance of adequate nutrition to national defense, this book should be widely read by those who wish to enlarge their knowledge of the primary place of minerals in plant, animal, and human nutrition.—*Joseph F. Cox, AAA-Extension Agronomist.*

## ON THE CALENDAR

World's Greatest County Fair, Madison Square Garden, New York, N. Y., September 10-20.

Eastern States Exposition, Springfield, Mass., September 14-20.

National Poultry Show, Southeastern World's Fair, Atlanta, Ga., September 28-October 5. Foundation for Education in American Citizenship, Indianapolis, Ind., September 29-30.

National Recreation Congress, Baltimore, Md., September 29-October 3.

Thirty-first Annual Pacific International Livestock Exposition, Portland, Oreg., October 4-11.

Pan American Cotton Congress, Memphis, Tenn., October 6-10.

National Dairy Show, Memphis, Tenn., October 11-18.

American Royal Forty-third Annual Livestock and Horse Show, Kansas City, Mo., October 18-25.

National Rural Home Council, Nashville, Tenn., October 20.

U. S. Liaison Committee, American Country Life Association, Nashville, Tenn., October 20-24.

American Dietetic Association, St. Louis, Mo., October 20-24.

American Country Life Association Meeting, Nashville, Tenn., October 21-24.

National Home Demonstration Council, Nashville, Tenn., October 21-22.

National Horse Show Association, New York, N. Y., November 5-12.

Fifty-fifth Annual Convention of the Association of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities, Washington, D. C., November 10-12.

# They Say Today

## The First Lady—A Farm Woman

A little after 5 yesterday afternoon, on our picnic grounds at Hyde Park, representatives of various organizations in the county gathered to discuss with State representatives what had been accomplished in spreading nutrition information.

I felt a good deal was accomplished yesterday, for they named a radio and publicity chairman and talked over methods of getting information to the people of our country. A home demonstration agent is being sent by the emergency home demonstration committee to a group of counties, including Dutchess. Our county agent, Mr. Shepard, called a meeting at which women were named to take charge of the arrangements for the agent's work.

This seems to me very important because she can help us to accomplish things which are now being asked of the women of the United States. First we may see that our schools are used as demonstration centers for child feeding. That means that every available source of supply must be tapped for food to be used daily.

I think that every housewife would like to set aside a part of her canning for use in the schools. This program can be carefully planned in every school district so that a variety of foods are available. It seems to me that every rural school might well enter into some reciprocal agreement with the nearby city school, by which they help the city school to carry on a similar food demonstration program. In return, the city school offers them some kind of entertainment or participation in group activity not available in the rural school district.

In addition, we are being asked to furnish certain kinds of foods for use in England. Shipping is a difficult problem, but the food must be available whenever the ships are ready to take it. Therefore, I think every housewife could set aside on her shelves certain things which are needed in England and feel that she is actively participating in the defense of democracy. *Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, in the column, "My Day," July 24, 1941.*

## Food Reserves Needed

This is the time of all times for the South to make further adjustments in cotton. In the past, a frequent question of southerners was: "What shall we grow in the place of cotton? What can our people grow to make a living?"

There is a partial answer for them now. The South can grow more food, more dairy products, more meat, more vegetables, more chickens and eggs, more of the vital foods that are needed for Great Britain and for our own people, too.

For months now I have had the feeling that a large part of the world will be starving after this war is over. Many countries will be looking to the United States for food, and they will really listen to what we have to say if we can feed them. I have a pet statement that I have made a good many times: "Food may not only win the war. It may decide the peace too." I am convinced that statement is true.

The war between Germany and Russia makes me more certain than ever that food is one of our strongest weapons. After the two armies get through trampling the Ukraine, there may not be much grain left to harvest.

Much of the South may not be fitted for the commercial production of pork or dairy products. But a good part of the South can successfully grow much more food for its own use. Not the least of our defense efforts is to keep our own people well-fed and healthy.

As soon as possible, we ought to build up reserves of almost every vital food. I am not worried about not being able to use it. Even if the war should end within the next few months, we shall have a place for our reserves here at home. This country could step up its consumption of dairy and poultry products substantially, and still we should need more to give our people all they require of these vital foods. Other foods are in a similar category. Stepping up domestic consumption of the foods that we need for health's sake is one of the jobs that must be done. It's not only a job that we should like to do: it's a job we've got to do.—*Claude R. Wickard, Secretary of Agriculture, in an address at Waco, Tex., June 25, 1941.*

## Civilian Defense

The changed technique of war has made necessary a new branch of the defense forces of our country. In addition to the Army and the Navy, we shall soon have a civilian army trained and disciplined to protect our families and our homes. Up to this present war, activities of the Army and Navy were generally localized. There was a war zone. Cities were protected unless they happened to lie in the path of an invasion; and non-combatants—men, women, and children—were protected from attack by international law. That protection no longer exists. It has been wiped out entirely, and every city is subject to attack. Every man, woman, and child, though not in uniform, is in constant danger from an attack. The reason for that is the use of new weapons of war. Distance is no longer a protection. It has been eliminated. The improvement of the airplane, its development of speed and ability to carry heavy loads of explosives, has made necessary the

training of the people themselves for their own defense. Therefore, the President has created the Office of Civilian Defense. It is our function to train the necessary number of men and women throughout the country to carry on the necessary operations of defense in the event of an attack.

We have learned from the experience of British citizens the need for this training. It has shown necessity for discipline; for, as you know, in times of danger—fire and other catastrophes—unless the people are self-disciplined and trained, the tendency is to congregate in large numbers or to run in panic. That would cause more loss of life than the bombs. That was the experience of English citizens. Therefore, every city, town, and village will have to be surveyed and the places determined where it is safest to remain. The idea of going into bomb shelters has been partially abandoned in England. Our first task is to impress upon the people the need to avoid panic, to follow instructions. And then we must train a number of men and women to act as air-raid wardens to carry out plans of defense, keeping people in their homes with all lights out; leaders to spot incendiary bombs; and an auxiliary fire force to reinforce the permanent personnel of the fire department. We must establish field hospitals; train women and men to give first aid and to carry the injured from field hospitals to the regular hospitals; and train them for canteen work if the work of the wardens requires long, sustained hours.—*Fiorello H. LaGuardia, Mayor of New York and Director, Office of Civilian Defense, in an address presented at Citizenship Ceremonial, National 4-H Club Camp, Washington, D. C., June 24, 1941.*

## CONTENTS

	Page
To Live Confidently and Courageously	Inside front cover
Unity in Service	<i>Anna H. Haye, Idaho</i> 129
Be It Ever so Humble	<i>Mrs. Bernice T. Mooney, Vt.</i> 130
The Columbia Basin Irrigation Project	<i>R. M. Turner, Wash.</i> 131
Tennessee Families Enroll To Grow Their Own Food	<i>A. J. Sims, Tenn.</i> 132
Democracy and the Dinner Pail	<i>Grace B. Armstrong, Ill.</i> 133
Kansans Train for Extension Careers	<i>Leonard F. Neff, Kans.</i> 134
The Books Come to the Reader	<i>Violet D. Ramsey, Va.</i> 135
Emergency Family Adjustments	<i>Alma H. Jones, Iowa</i> 136
On-the-Spot Farm Broadcasts	<i>Jack Towers, S. Dak.</i> 137
To Bridge the Gap	<i>Katherine E. Bennett, Calif.</i> 138
Poor Homes Follow Poor Land	<i>L. M. Busehe and Starley M. Hunter, Ind.</i> 139
California Develops Potato County	<i>M. A. Lindsay, Calif.</i> 140
Iowa Youth in a Defense Economy	<i>Robert C. Clark, Iowa</i> 141
From Color to Black and White, Mo.	141
Extension Research	142
Death of Mark Thayer	143
Texas Features the Whole Farm Demonstration	144
Have You Read	144
They Say Today	page 3 of cover

*To Simplify Matters for Farmers . . . .*

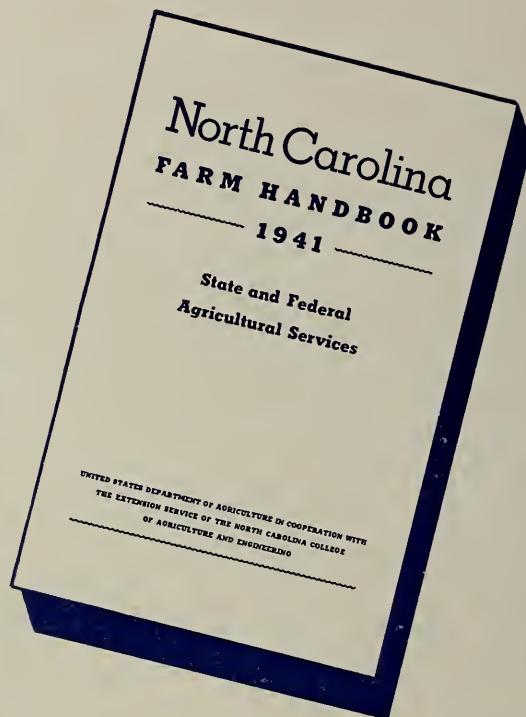
## FARM HANDBOOKS

Last year Director Wilson informed the State Directors that funds were available for printing State Farm Handbooks, listing the agricultural services of the respective States and of the United States Government directly available to the public. The services are listed by subjects, rather than by agencies. State Farm Handbooks have since been published for Maryland, California, North Carolina, and Minnesota. Others are in preparation.

Copies are distributed by the Extension Service to the farmer members of the various committees and to the leaders of other Government-sponsored organizations in the State. Copies are placed in rural high schools and other places for public use.

While these Handbooks are not generally distributed outside the States concerned, copies of those recently issued will be sent on request to any members of the Extension Service who may be interested.

The manuscripts are prepared in the State Extension Office and checked through the



Department Offices at Washington, where any missing links are filled in. It will not be practicable to issue Farm Handbooks annually, but it is hoped to make each useful for years. The basic farm services of State and Federal Governments are now set in a fairly permanent pattern. The Handbooks are meant to help the average farm family to find whatever services it needs. Forthcoming Handbooks will include information on farmers and national defense.

Further information will gladly be supplied on request. Your comments and criticisms are welcome.

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